



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 9, 2002, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: September 8, 2002  
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## Wheat Producers Switched From Harvesting to Planting Eastern Cattle Producers Impacted by Dry Weather

### Field Crops

Wheat harvest was almost complete for Washington. Producers were turning their attention to planting winter wheat. Sweet corn acreage in Grays Harbor County was topped in anticipation of early fall storms. In Franklin County, potato, carrot, and sweet corn harvest continued. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Noble fir in Thurston County.

### Livestock

Cattle producers in the eastern region were beginning to feel the impact of the dry weather as it took its toll on pastures and rangeland. In Stevens County, producers have the advantage of an adequate hay supply which did not exist last year. Producers in Asotin and Garfield Counties were selling their calves early. Range and pasture conditions were 10% very poor, 28% poor, 38% fair and 24% good.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Commercial blueberry growers continued to report good quality and excellent yields. U-Pick corn, berries, and flower signs were out at many farms in the west. Pumpkins as well as leaves on the trees were starting to turn fall colors. Apples, hops, peaches, and nectarines were being harvested in the central region. Bartlett pears were being harvested in Kittitas County. In Benton County, Niagra grape harvest for juice as well as the wine grape harvest began.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.9

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	16	46	38	0
Subsoil	7	37	56	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	0	7	93	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	99	94	96	96
Winter Wheat Planted	39	10	26	27
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	98	99	99
Barley Harvested	99	90	96	96
Potatoes Harvested	57	34	29	30
Corn Silage Harvested	15	6	24	23
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	17	12	19	23
Dry Peas Harvested	100	97	99	97
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	98	96	96	94

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	0	11	85	4
Corn	0	0	3	97	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	5	95	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Most sweet corn acreage was topped in anticipation of early fall storms. The topping process removed the top 20 inches of the corn stalk, thereby reducing the potential for lodging in storm conditions. Once a corn plant has lodged, it cannot be mechanically harvested. The county continued to be very dry with most non-irrigated pastures and hayfields completely brown due to the lack of available soil moisture. Commercial blueberry growers continued to report good fruit quality and excellent yields. U-Pick pumpkin fields were beginning to turn color. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Commercial artichoke growers were busy harvesting artichokes for direct sale at the farm. Quality and yield were excellent.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions continued to remain favorable in the South Puget Sound area. There was no unusual crop damage to report due to weather conditions.

**Snohomish/North King:** Much needed rainfall received during the week settled the dust. The corn crop was looking good. U-Pick corn, berries, and flower signs were out at many farms. Pumpkins as well as leaves on the trees were starting to turn beautiful colors of fall.

**Thurston:** A few thundershowers late in the week did very little to reduce the extremely dry conditions which exist throughout the county. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Noble fir. Blueberry growers were machine harvesting fruit at night for improved quality. Turfgrass growers continued cultivating new fields for fall seeding. Dairy producers continued liquid manure applications on forage fields. With no significant rainfall in over two months, non-irrigated pastures and hayfields were totally dried up. Even tough perennial weeds with extended tap roots were showing signs of drought stress!

## Central

**Benton:** Apples, hops, peaches, and nectarines were being harvested. Niagara grape harvest for juice began as well as the wine grape harvest. Conditions remained very dry, but temperatures turned cooler.

**Franklin:** The weather was sunny and dry, but temperatures were cooler than the previous week. Potato, carrot, and sweet corn harvests continued. Wheat harvest was nearly complete. Apples were being picked.

**Kittitas:** The second cutting of timothy hay continued. The third cutting of alfalfa was expected

to be completed by the end of the week. Grain harvest was complete, with average yields reported. Bartlett pear harvest began and was also expected to be complete by the end of the week. Sweet corn harvest continued. Range and pasture conditions were in good shape. Irrigation water supply was adequate.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were colder than normal, ranging from 3 degrees above normal to 10 degrees below normal with a trace of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat was approximately 75 percent seeded and 40 percent emerged at week's end. Seeding conditions were reported as fair by most growers.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Wheat harvest was complete except for a few producers. Producers were turning their attention to planting winter wheat. Conditions were very dry and no seeding had begun. Several producers could not hit moisture in their summer fallow acreage even with deep furrow drills. Rain is needed to help improve pasture and planting conditions. Many producers were selling calves early. The livestock sale in Lewiston over the weekend went well into the night, as large numbers of feeder cattle

were brought to market.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat seeding was moving along, with an estimated 45 percent seeded in the county and 15 percent emerged.

**Stevens:** Harvest was nearly finished in most areas of the county. Cattle producers were beginning to feel the impact of continued hot, dry weather as pastures turned to dust. The cumulative effect of several dry years in a row were taking their toll on stressed pastures and rangeland. Producers do have the advantage of an adequate local hay supply--something that did not exist last year.

**Weekly Weather Statistics  
September 9, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	40	67	56	-5	41	-28	0	-14	0.15	-0.23	2	33.25	-3.35	91	160
Everett	47	70	58	-3	60	-14	4	-11	0.18	-0.26	2	31.31	-5.70	85	167
Hoquiam	42	65	56	-7	43	-34	0	-21	1.08	0.49	3	64.84	-3.72	95	182
Kelso	43	77	58	-5	60	-28	6	-22	0.05	-0.44	2	40.75	-6.34	87	156
Olympia	37	73	55	-5	40	-33	2	-13	0.34	-0.10	2	59.20	8.11	116	172
Seattle-Tacoma	47	72	59	-5	62	-29	4	-22	0.08	-0.30	1	38.33	0.71	102	154
Shelton	38	76	57	-6	48	-40	0	-27	0.04	-0.45	1	68.59	3.17	105	162
Tacoma	39	75	58	-5	57	-27	4	-17	0.03	-0.39	2	30.14	-10.59	74	133
Vancouver	47	83	62	-1	83	-4	14	-11	0.00	-0.42	0	37.45	-4.33	90	154
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	36	82	57	-6	49	-40	8	-24	0.00	-0.13	0	7.03	-2.05	77	85
Omak	33	86	61	-1	78	-6	21	-9	0.02	-0.19	2	9.31	-5.98	61	76
Stampede Pass	37	63	48	-5	5	-26	0	-7	0.21	-0.46	1	76.73	-5.05	94	174
Wenatchee	47	88	64	-5	95	-29	27	-29	0.29	0.15	2	5.71	-2.76	67	66
Yakima AP	36	85	59	-6	65	-35	15	-25	0.00	-0.14	0	7.02	-1.11	86	63
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	35	86	61	1	79	2	19	-7	0.00	-0.28	0	15.56	-5.98	72	86
Deer Park	33	81	58	-6	55	-36	13	-22	0.07	-0.14	3	21.40	2.63	114	127
Spokane AP	37	81	59	-4	66	-26	15	-21	0.08	-0.13	2	15.23	-1.50	91	115
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	38	85	62	-7	86	-45	25	-38	0.00	-0.07	0	5.77	-1.54	79	64
Moses Lake	40	84	61	-8	79	-52	21	-42	0.00	-0.07	0	5.78	-1.53	79	66
Quincy	43	85	62	-4	87	-23	22	-24	0.00	-0.14	0	6.30	-1.68	79	61
Ritzville	37	83	59	-5	62	-35	12	-26	0.00	-0.11	0	9.97	-1.47	87	80
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	41	85	63	-9	94	-62	30	-54	0.00	-0.11	0	5.64	-0.98	85	51
Pasco	40	92	62	-7	86	-42	21	-41	0.00	-0.12	0	6.13	-1.50	80	60
Pullman	35	82	58	-4	59	-23	11	-19	0.01	-0.20	1	18.01	-3.32	84	113
Whitman Mission	40	89	64	-2	101	-4	33	-10	0.00	-0.14	0	13.20	-0.71	95	97
<b>IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	82	61	-4	75	-26	17	-24	0.01	-0.27	1	21.36	-4.91	81	122
Lewiston ID	46	89	67	-1	123	-5	55	-8	0.06	-0.15	2	11.51	-1.16	91	112

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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